

Dale Pollard of Turlock, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. As Jennie was being taken to her final resting place, the family received the sad news that her sister, Julia Alexander, had just passed. She is now survived by two sisters and two brothers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a patriot. Jennie Eshoo was a woman who served her community, her church and her country with great dedication, and today the entire House of Representatives extends its condolences to all her family.

HONORING KIARA L. WALKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an ambitious and talented young woman, Ms. Kiara L. Walker. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to achieve greatness.

Ms. Walker, a native of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, made her embark on this journey of life January 9, 1990. She is the youngest of 6 children by Eldridge and Anne Walker and second oldest child of Delores Myles.

Ms. Walker graduated from South Delta High School in 2008 where she was the Valedictorian. During her 4 year matriculation of high school at South Delta, Kiara devoted herself not only to academic excellence, but also community involvement, mentorship, and other extracurricular activities. She was a section leader (trumpets) and member of the South Delta Marching Band for many years, inductee and board member of the SD Chapter National Honor Society, as well as, student council, peer counselor, and elected Vice-President of her senior class. In 2005, Kiara was a chosen ambassador and is now a reoccurring volunteer facilitator each summer at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference (HOBY) at Millsaps College. She was also listed in Who's Who Among High School Students.

Ms. Walker is a founding member of the Mayor's Youth Council of Rolling Fork, an active member of local 4-H Club, and partner with local elected officials to host many community events throughout the year, such as, the local Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Children's Day Fest and Thanksgiving/Christmas dinners for the elderly. At an early age, she was instilled with the morality of always sharing her many gifts and talents; therefore, she tutors elementary students.

In May 2013 Ms. Walker earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Healthcare Administration. Kiara was a recipient of the Valedictorian scholarship, a student of the WEB DuBois Honors College, and inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She's a former member of Tiger P.R.I.D.E. Connection, Pre-Health Society, American Chemical Society, National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBECHE), Interfaith Gospel Choir, and the JSU Concert Chorale. Also during her undergraduate progression, she has studied research in the areas of Molecular Biology and

Computational Chemistry and has been a part of scientific publications in assistance with mentor professors.

Ms. Walker's philosophy on life can be drawn from Matthew 19:26 which states, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." This is a key verse that she understands.

Therefore, she honors her Christian values and strives daily to become a better servant leader. She is a faith member of Mt. Lula Baptist Church in Rolling Fork, MS where she serves in the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Kiara L. Walker for her dedication to her community and mankind.

HONORING CHARLES J. O'LEARY
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Mr. Charles J. O'Leary, who is celebrating his 80th birthday this month.

A current resident of Tonawanda, Mr. O'Leary was born and raised on the City of Buffalo's West Side and has both witnessed and endured some of the city and the nation's most tumultuous times. Born on December 12, 1933, Mr. O'Leary knows the true nature of what it is to be resilient in times of hardship, and in effect, what it means to be a true American.

Mr. O'Leary proudly served my hometown and its residents as a dedicated public servant throughout his 37 year career with the City of Buffalo Fire Department. He completed his courageous tour of duty in 1993 as Captain of the renowned and respectfully remembered Engine 10 at Ohio and Ganson Streets in our most historic, industrial waterfront community.

As impressive as his valiant professional life, Mr. O'Leary is to be commended for his commitment as a caring and active family man. In addition to celebrating this birthday milestone, he and his wife Elinor will soon be sharing their 60th wedding anniversary—a mark representing Mr. O'Leary's devotion and dedication as a husband and father to six children—Charles, Robert, Kevin, Eileen, Patrick and Paul. Mr. O'Leary now enjoys quite the extended family, with 20 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to acknowledge the life and accomplishments of Charles J. O'Leary. His good works, devoted public service and gifts as a family man will be celebrated with those whose lives he has so deeply influenced on December 20, 2013 and I am pleased and proud to offer sincere congratulations and best wishes to this good and faithful servant on this most happy occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAGDAD, FLORIDA
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bagdad, Florida Volunteer Fire Department and recognize the selfless service, sacrifice, and dedication of its members, past and present, in protecting the citizens of the Northwest Florida community.

Formally established in 1963, the Bagdad Volunteer Fire Department was initially founded in 1962 as a Fire Rescue team of ten men led by Chief Dan Fowler. Despite having little equipment and no firehouse, this team of dedicated individuals was inspired by the need for a department to provide for the safety and rescue needs of Bagdad and the surrounding Santa Rosa County community. Bagdad Elementary School opened its doors as a meeting place for the volunteers to discuss business and other issues, while the Florida Department of Forestry provided the team's first truck that was stationed at the Chief's home. With the continued support of the local community and to meet the growing needs of its citizens, the department built its first firehouse in 1965 on donated land and acquired a second fire truck. A third truck was acquired in 1975, and the 1980's brought the deployment of a pager system and acquisition of a fourth and more modern fire truck. Today, the department comprises 25 volunteers, 2 Class-A 1,000 gallon pumpers, an E-1 rescue truck, an E-1 brush attack truck and a 17.5-foot rescue boat.

Throughout the course of Bagdad Volunteer Fire Department's fifty-year history and transformation, what has remained constant is the clear vision of the required capabilities needed to successfully meet the safety needs of the growing community, as well as, the passion and dedication of its numerous volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bagdad, Florida Volunteer Fire Department. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of the volunteers for their faithful service and wishing them and the department continued success.

HONORING EVAN JOSEPH
HERONEMUS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Evan Joseph Heronemus. Evan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 218, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Evan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Evan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Evan